

VZCZCXYZ0012  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHIN #0431 0851054  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
O 251054Z MAR 08  
FM AIT TAIPEI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8537  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 8071

S E C R E T AIT TAIPEI 000431

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/25/2028  
TAGS: [PARM](#) [MTCRE](#) [PREL](#) [TW](#) [CH](#)  
SUBJECT: (S) DEMARCHE TO TAIWAN ON MISTAKEN SHIPMENT OF  
MISSILE COMPONENTS

REF: SECSTATE 30491

Classified By: AIT Director Stephen M. Young, Reason 1.4 (b/d)1

¶1. (S) Director met with Defense Minister Michael Tsai at 1730 hours local (0530 EDT) to deliver reftel points and leave as a nonpaper. Chief of the General Staff General Huoh Shou-yeh and other senior advisers also attended the meeting.

Minister Tsai expressed appreciation for our candid explanation of this incident, and pledged Taiwan MND's full cooperation in the DOD investigation. Informed of the U.S. intention to make this incident public, Minister Tsai expressed some concern that our explanation in no way harm the robust U.S.-Taiwan security cooperation relationship. DIR assured the Minister that our intention was to express gratitude to Taiwan for its cooperation in quickly and successfully resolving this situation. Cautioning that our private explanation not be disclosed pending DOD's public disclosure, I suggested that the Minister brief President Chen this evening of our meeting, to avoid any misunderstandings when Washington's press conference occurs. Minister Tsai indicated he would do so promptly.

¶2. (S) Comment: The meeting was cordial and conducted as among friends. Minister Tsai also pledged to work cooperatively with President-Elect Ma Ying-jeou to brief him fully on U.S.-Taiwan security cooperation during the transition to the new government.

YOUNG